

in City Hall from which to conduct its affairs. It is suggested that Room 302 be utilized, and as such, contain suitable furniture, desks, file cabinets, lockable space for each officer, a typewriter, and ephemera. Mr. Klimiowicz stated that the Society would soon be receiving a file cabinet from Dorothy Swift. It was also suggested that a sign be emplaced in the lobby of City Hall, to direct any visitors to the Society's office and galleries. It was agreed that the matter should be pursued, and noted that the office would actually cost very little, since Room 302 is nearly completed anyway.

Mr. Klimiowicz then expressed the belief that the locks on the third floor should be obeyed, so that the Society's collections would be more secure. He noted that this should be accomplished prior to Pioneer Days. Dr. Powell suggested that either the heatwall remain up during Pioneer Days, or be removed entirely, and the door at the top of the stairs be reinstalled at its proper location at the entrance to Room 305.

On the matter of the Crystal Band Concert that the Society is presenting in Memorial Park on 16 July, it was noted that the power to the boxes in the park has been returned on, and that all necessary details with the Presbyterian Church have been attended to. Mr. Klimiowicz will speak with Jerry Palbo of the Scranton Times and Ray Rinaldi of the Tribune, requesting an announcement in the Sunday and/or Monday editions of the two papers. He also suggested a general cleanup of the park prior to the concert. Dr. Powell noted that he will act as master of ceremonies for the evening, and will speak with Howard Pitz in regard to the possibility of the Merchants' Association contributing to the cost of the concert.

Dr. Powell went on to say that Esther Singer has informed him that the cost of having an ice cream stand in place would be too high for a two hour concert. Mr. Hepburn stated that he would contact Joseph Mayes, regarding his stand, and the use of it during the concert.

Mr. Klimiowicz then noted that the long-range weather forecast was for rain. Messrs. Loftus and Jomaine then suggested that the Executive Committee enact the changes in the by-laws which they had prepared. After a reading of the changes and discussion of the matter, this was agreed upon, and Mr. Jomaine was instructed to prepare new by-laws, one copy to be placed with each officer, and several to be retained in the office.

For the record it is noted that:

-Dr. Powell will contact Bill Rinaldi, Lackawanna County Clerk of Judicial records, to obtain the records of Carbondale's Mayor's Court. These records are being discarded by the county, and Mr. Rinaldi has offered them to the Society.

-Senator Robert Mellow has written to the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission regarding possible funding for repairs to the structural problems in the roof area of City Hall.

-Letters have been sent as a matter of record to all proper officials explaining situation with the roof.

Dr. Powell will attempt to meet with Helen Sproston personally during his 14 July visit to Carbondale to explain the roof problem and ask his help in the matter. As of 5 December, 1983, the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall has been dissolved.

-On 25 June, Dr. Powell and Mr. Klimiowicz wrote to Stella Olzud regarding the acquisition of the negative collection of the late Mike Znowka.

-After a visit to Morris Marston on 25 June, a letter was sent to Nancy Marchuk, Grant-Singer Rose Company Secretary, asking for the donation of artifacts from the house, and permission to photograph the house.

-Garnett Hurlins, a member of the Society, has gone on to his reward.

-Dr. Powell commended the Secretary, Mr. Jomaine, for his keeping of accurate and detailed minutes of the Society.

-The Society has been asked to peruse a draft of a proposed text to be placed on the Adams Building, the former Miners' and Mechanics' Bank. The text, it is noted, contains several historical errors.

-Mr. Loftus has purchased the bonds to be awarded as prizes in the Architectural Drawing contest sponsored by the Society and the Carbondale Area High School.

-Interest paid on loans was \$28.85 to the Liberty Discount and Savings Bank, and 77.59 to the First National Bank of Carbondale.

-The scripts for the Pioneer Minutes have been recorded by Marion Swift at WOL/ WSP and are available for the station's use.

With all business concluded the meeting adjourned at the stroke of 11 pm.

Robert G. Jomaine, Secretary

The regular fortnightly meeting of The Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc. was held at 7:30 pm, July 19, 1984, in Room 301, Carbondale City Hall.

Prior to the business meeting, the Society members present were addressed by Susan McKinney, of the Balche Institute, regarding that organization's Anthracite Region Ethnic Studies Program. Miss McKinney stated that the program will, at its conclusion in September 1985, have run for two years and also will publish a guide to the information contained in its survey.

The President of the Society, S. Robert Powell, stated that he would like to see the name of the Society included in the guide, if possible. Miss McKinney replied that the inclusion of the Society as a resource would be possible. Jean Colville then made inquiry as to the cost of such inclusion. Miss McKinney stated that there would be no cost for such a listing.

Miss McKinney explained that program is primarily interested in documentation, ledgers, minute books, receipts, journals, etc. which relate to ethnic societies in the Anthracite Region. She noted that historical emphasis has shifted from institutions to people, and that none is certain exactly what information is extant.

She added that fraternal organizations have become social clubs, or faded out entirely as the need for their existence faded out. She went on to say that frequently information is lost, since succeeding generations fail to recognize the value of records in the native tongue, and often simply discard them. Such information should be located and preserved, either in local repositories or at the Institute. This is being accomplished by conducting surveys on the various organizations and their holdings, and the time period they cover.

Dr. Powell then asked if the Institute were seeking "non-mainstream" written history. Miss McKinney replied that little such information is available in written form, although newspapers and records are in existence. However, she pointed out that are often "tainted" and thus church records and society minutes are more valuable. She added that often it is found that people have realized the value of such documents and have saved them.

Cy Gnosvenor mentioned that he has a large quantity of information on Cyril Bogak and his various business involvements. He pointed out that Mr. Bogak had lost about \$6 000 000 on Polish bonds.

Mr. Gnosvenor also explained that the construction of the Delaware and Hudson Canal had brought 2500 Irishmen into the region. 700 of these Irishmen had built the dams at Keene's and Ladone. Mr. Gnosvenor also noted the Belmont Street Catholic Cemetery, and the unfortunate relocation of the bodies from the site, calling it a "tragedy." He went on to say that the Italian laborers in the mines wore brass tags with numbers on them.

Miss McKinney then explained that Emily Swift Balche had died before 1910. In the 1960's, her estate went before court, and, due to the fact that the Balche family was philanthropically oriented, it was decided that an ethnic studies institute should be created.

This particular project (in the Anthracite Region) is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Miss McKinney explained.

Mr. Gnosvenor then pointed out the fact that numerous Italian villages were virtually decimated of their populations of young men by recruitment of these men for work in America. He added that the spelling of Italian names was a major problem.

Mrs. Colville then stated that descendants of Lewis Pugh he had come from Wales with a sick wife and children, and at Ellis Island, his wife had died. He went to Wayne County with his children, and purchased property there, and later sold coal slaves in Carbondale. After serving as City Treasurer in Carbondale, he returned to Wales and was never heard from.

Mr. Gnosvenor then noted that he is able to trace his lineage back as far as 1618, to Gersmiah Vail. He added that most people are unable to go back beyond their grandparents. He stated that the Gnosvenor name goes back as far as the Viking invasion of Normandy in the eighth century.

Dr. Powell then explained that the records of the Maplewood Cemetery show the nationalities from the earliest burials to about the 1890's. He added that at that time, the nationality listed merely becomes "American." He then theorized that a number of the tombstones in the cemetery had most likely been brought here from Wales, based on the inscriptions upon them.

Dr. Powell also mentioned that when he and Robert Jomaine, Secretary of the Society, had met with Miss McKinney in the Carbondale Public Library several months earlier, the collection of nineteenth century newspapers they had shown her were part of the largest collection of such newspapers in this part of the state. He added that they are presently being microfilmed. He also commented on the difference in the quality of paper used in those newspapers, as opposed to the newspaper in common use today.

Miss McKinney, in closing, thanked the Society for the invitation to address the membership, and requested that the Society keep the needs of the survey in mind.

On the regular meeting, Mr. Jomaine abbreviated the reading of the minutes due to time constraints, by only briefly mentioning each item.

Upon the reading of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 12 July, which had been held for the specific purpose of the revision of bylaws, a number of the members levelled serious criticisms at the officers, stating that the entire membership should have been consulted prior to any changes. Mr. Jomaine attempted to explain that to do so would, in all probability, have been nearly impossible, given the fact that there would have been a rather wide array of opinions on each item. He also attempted to point out the fact that the officers were merely recommending proposed changes, as provided for under the current bylaws, in response to allegations that the officers were attempting to conduct business in secret.

He then offered to read every section of the old and new bylaws, comparing each. It was asked why no copies had been applied to the individual members. Mr. Jomaine stated that the reason for this was twofold, in that it would have been less than prudent, in his opinion, to go through the expense of printing up over 100 copies of proposed bylaws, given the financial situation of the Society. He added that the